

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 30 are pending.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Brodersen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,266,669 in view of Haegele, U.S. Patent No. 6,129,373. The instant Office action was made final, rejecting arguments presented in a response to an earlier Office action.

A telephonic interview with Examiner was conducted on October 4, 2004. Counsel for Applicant appreciates the opportunity given by the Examiner to clarify the distinctions between the present invention as recited in the pending claims and the cited art. Unfortunately, an agreement was not reached.

Nonetheless, counsel strenuously maintains that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited art, and respectfully submits that the Examiner's response (page 7 of the instant Office action) to arguments previously presented by counsel are in error.

The Examiner begins by stating:

“Applicant argues that Brodersen does not show the feature of integrating said first and second data items into an integration result of said query request.”

to which the Examiner wrote:

“As to point this point, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that this feature was taught by Brodersen. Brodersen teaches retrieving data from the employee table and the position table and joining these tables in response to a query from a user (see col. 1, lines 30- 50).”

The present invention relates to information retrieval in a database, and in particular a database query method. Respectfully, it was never argued that the distinction is merely one of “integrating said first and second data items into an integration result of said query request.” No claim is made to such a broadly recited operation, such as the join operation described by Brodersen at column 1, lines 30-50.

Instead, as stated previously, an aspect of the present invention includes “obtaining a first data item from a database table ... in response to a query request” and “obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database system based on a value related to said first data item, said value being stored in said updated log file.” *Claim 1*. A particularly salient aspect of the present invention is obtaining data from a “log file” in order to process the query, in addition to obtaining data from a data table. Brodersen does not show such a step at column 1, lines 30-50.

The foregoing incorrect characterization of Brodersen continues in next leg of the Examiner’s argument:

“Applicant argues neither Brodersen nor Haegele teaches obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database system based on a value related to said first data item. As to [] this point, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that this feature was a combination of teachings by Brodersen and Haegele. Brodersen teaches retrieving data from the employee table and the position table (see col. 1, lines 30-50). Brodersen further teaches downloading data from an updated log file to a central merge processor where a merge processing is being performed (see fig. 1,4; col. 9, lines 36 to col. 7, lines 62).”

Haegele was cited for allegedly teaching “based on a value related to said first data item” which will be discussed below. Therefore, Brodersen alone was relied upon for showing “obtaining a first data item from a database table ... in response to a query request” and “obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database system.” *Claim 1*.

It is agreed that “Brodersen teaches retrieving data from the employee table and the position table.” However, this cited portion of Brodersen relates to a “join” operation in which two data tables in a database are joined; the “employee table” and the “position table” are tables in the database, neither is a log file. This cited portion of Brodersen does not teach retrieving data from a log file in order to process the query, an action that is recited in the pending claims.

It is agreed, for the most part, that “Brodersen further teaches downloading data from an updated log file to a central merge processor where a merge processing is being

performed.” However, the Brodersen reference relates to a technique for maintaining a partially replicated database so as to selectively receive updates that are made to a central database or made to another partially replicated database. *Col. 2, lines 34 -39*. Brodersen et al. disclose using log files to update these partially replicated databases. The “merge processing” refers to a process of updating a partially replicated database using such log files. The “merge processing” described by Brodersen does not include accessing data from a log file to process a query.

The Examiner mentions these two aspects of Brodersen with the implication that they somehow collectively teach the aspect of the present invention recited above. The “merge processing”, in fact, bears no relation to the join operation described by Brodersen et al. in their background section; the join operation was discussed in the context of background information, the “merge processing” is an aspect of the technique disclosed by Brodersen et al. With respect, it is not clear how these two separate ideas constitute a teaching of the aspect of the present invention recited above.

As noted above, the Haegele reference was cited for allegedly teaching “based on a value related to said first data item.” As the Examiner writes:

“However, Brodersen does not explicitly teach[] the second data item based on a value related to said first data item. Examiner believes that Haegele compensates Brodersen’s deficiency by teaching obtaining a second data item based on a value related to said first data item (ab; col. 2, lines 7-10, 20-26,50-55).”

It is respectfully submitted that Haegele in fact does not teach “obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database system based on a value related to said first data item, said value being stored in said updated log file.” Haegele describe a two step process: (1) obtaining an entry (comprises parsed word, a LOID, and a CSOID) by searching a plurality of such entries using a parsed word as the search criterion; and (2) using the LOID and the CSOID from the obtained entry as index links to the relational database. The foregoing recited aspect of the invention, however, is to obtain a second data item “from an updated log file ... based on a values related to said first data item.” Haegele does not show this aspect of the present invention.

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PATENT

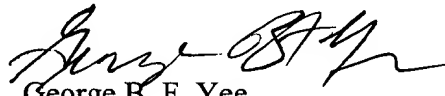
Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400, ext. 5252.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400, ext. 5252
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60303463 v1